

A QUICK GUIDE TO...

WORKING ABROAD

Ever considered working abroad? It's an exciting prospect and something which a career in greenkeeping does present the opportunity of doing, but how do you make sure that you gain the most from the experience?

Mike O'Keeffe, who runs the Ohio State University Internship programme offers some tips...



Know the visa rules and tax laws

- First of all, make sure you know the visa rules and tax laws for the particular country you're entering.

Got a criminal record?

- If you have a criminal/driving/drug record, forget about applying to go overseas

Get references

- Get references, good written references, as that is all you have to market yourself. If you do give references, include an email and a mobile telephone number.

Do your research

- Many British people call me and want to go work in America, and they have never been here. Do your research on the economy, the job market and the feasibility of getting a management job. And when possible, visit the country first, before making such a huge commitment.

Set your sights

- It's easy to get an internship, but not easy to get a management job in most countries.

Prepare a CV

- Prepare a CV, ideally a one pager, with a clean cut photo included with clear cut

goals in the first paragraph. No one cares about your O level or A levels, keep it brief and to the point. Adding a clear cut photo is not necessary but it helps a lot. Use proper English, no text speak, and make sure you double check your spelling.

In a relationship?

- Think carefully if you're in a serious relationship about leaving your girlfriend. Many places can only house single guys.

Be flexible

- Management jobs are difficult to get into but if you're willing to be flexible, many courses are attracted.

Like long hours?

- Be prepared to work long hours, many countries do not have the bank holidays or days off that you're accustomed to in Britain.

Student/Backpacker?

- Be careful if you're a student, as some countries now regard you as a 'Backpacker' and they treat you like a backpacker. If you have experience, don't expect that experience to be respected. You will be like grunt labour and given whatever job is needed to be done.

Do your taxes

- Don't blame the host country, as right now, hundreds of British and Irish and other nationalities are flocking to countries with easy visas. It's a big money maker for those countries, as they charge higher 'emergency taxes' and many students 'don't bother' to do their taxes, which is a shame. Do your taxes and you may get quite a sum of money back.

Get free assistance

- If you go on a structured programme, many of these issues can be taken care of. For example, in America, the Ohio Program provides free software to help you do your taxes online, on time and you are advised on how to prevent overtaxation.

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